MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): If it can be transported for 4 as. by sea may I know why merchants transport by land routes at a cost of 8 as?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government have nothing to do with that. That is for the merchants to look into.

Laying of water pipes along the Brigade Lane Road, Kunnukuzhi.

349. * MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the time taken to lay the water pipes along the Brigade Lane Road, Kunnukuzhi;

(*b*) the date on which the above work was started; and

(*c*) the number of water taps erected in the lane and the time taken to put them up?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) One month and eleven days for laying the water pipes and a further period of one month and thirteen days for testing, backfilling and restoring the road.

(*b*) 9-4-1111.

(*c*) Three. Of these two are in service now. The erection of fountains was taken up in 4/12 and completed in 5/12 except for the platform of one of them.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know the expenditure incurred for this work?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Improved Main Central Road.

350 * MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate having an improved main central road from Cape Comorin to Ernakulam *via* Quilon and Mavelikara, and paving the same with cement concrete?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

Smuggling on the Northern Frontier.

351 * MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the present condition of the Illikkotta reserve on the northern frontier;

(*b*) how far it serves as a barrier against smugglers; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to protect the northern frontier with barbed wire fencing, to check smuggling?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) The bamboos in the Illikkotta reserve flowered and perished in 1102. Though attempts have been made to replant the area with fresh bamboo plants, they do not thrive.

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